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Letters to the Editor

Terrorism

Editor: The recent admonition by the retired CIA chief, Adm. Stansfield Turner, that our government must "keep its own hands clean," cannot possibly be based on his knowledge of the real world. As a former official, his main claim to fame will be that he, during the administration of President Carter, just about destroyed the CIA and its capacity to fight terrorism. It is strange that he and those of similar leanings cannot assimilate what is happening around the world and in our own United States.

The admiral, speaking at a symposium about terrorism in Baltimore, under the title of "Terrorism: Implications for a Free Society," said that "the United States must lead the world in fighting terrorism." He also stated that the United States, as the most moral nation on earth, must begin to assume the mantle of leadership "against the plague of terrorism."

Admiral Turner cited the controversial CIA manual on terrorism as one reason for his comments. The admiral cannot be as naive as he would lead us to believe, since he certainly knows there are dozens of manuals with similar phraseology used by the military and the intelligence community, but none necessarily means "assassinate someone just to assassinate." If the admiral doesn't understand the importance of neutralizing Nicaragua and believes that a takeover of the countries to the south of us is inconsequential, then I must presume his destruction of CIA capabilities had to be based on the same lack of knowledge that he is now displaying.

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